



## YURT ADVENTURE PACKET





Winter Camping in a Yurt .....	2
Adventure Locations .....	3
Sample Itinerary .....	4
Packing List .....	5
What to Expect .....	6
Other Considerations .....	7
Frequently Asked Questions.....	8
Essential Eligibility Conditions .....	9
Directions to Adventure Locations .....	10
Other Meeting Locations .....	13



# WINTER CAMPING IN A YURT



## WHAT IS A YURT?

A yurt is a moveable, circular dwelling made of a lattice of flexible wood and covered in felt or canvas. They are a sturdy, reliable type of tent that can house between 5 and 15 persons. Yurts have been the primary style of homes in Central Asia, particularly Mongolia, for thousands of years. They are ideal dwellings for the nomadic cultures of the Central Asian steppe. A steppe is dry, flat grassland with no trees and a cooler climate than other types of grasslands, such as savannas and prairies. The steppe is a very windy biome because no trees, shrubs, or tall grasses serve as windbreaks. The circular shape of yurts makes them able to resist winds from any direction. Even now, the day to day existence of many pastoral families on the Asian plateau centers on the rhythm of nature, the seasons, and life in a yurt home.

## HOW A YURT WORKS

The structural integrity of a yurt is based on compression and tension working together to form a freestanding, clear span structure. At the top of the yurt, the hub or compression ring is under pressure from the rafters, which radiate out from it. The rafters span out and down from the ring at a thirty-degree angle, and hook onto the main cable— which is under tension. The main cable is a continuous loop, preset to the exact circumference of the yurt. It is supported by the lattice wall and doorjamb, which bolt together to form a continuous circular wall. The roof material, the fabric walls, the dome and the door enclose the yurt framework.



# ADVENTURE LOCATIONS

## UINTA MOUNTAINS

An hour and a half outside of the city, the Uinta Mountains are a jewel. The Uintas are a high, pristine mountain area in northeastern Utah that is popular for fishing, hiking, backpacking, horsepacking, hunting and winter activities. Much of the area is designated as a roadless wilderness where vehicles are prohibited.

The Uinta Range is the highest in Utah, and is the only major range in the contiguous United States with an east-west orientation. Elevations range from 8,000 feet in the lower canyons to 13,528 feet atop Kings Peak - the highest point in Utah. Ridges divide the area into large, scenic basins; many ridges rise abruptly several thousand feet above the basins. There are well over 1,000 natural lakes in the Uintas and more than 500 of them support populations of game fish. There are also over 400 miles of streams.

In contrast to the surrounding desert, the Uintas receive about 40 inches of precipitation annually, mostly as snow. The growing season is short. Temperatures in areas above 10,000 feet are seldom above 80 degrees during summer days. Night temperatures during summer are 30-40 degrees, with freezing possible at any time. Summer afternoon thunderstorms may occur with little warning.

Most of the mountain slopes are forested. Coniferous trees (lodge pole pine, Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, sub-alpine fir) grow in large continuous stands. Quaking aspen occur in scattered patches throughout most of the lower elevations. Isolated meadows - resembling large parks - and willow fields add variety to the timbered areas. Many peaks extend above tree line.



# SAMPLE ITINERARY

- You will meet the Splore guides in the morning at your pre-determined meeting location (see your trip confirmation for details).
- Once everyone has arrived, we will start our trip with an opening circle in which we get to know everyone's names and goals for the trip.
- After introductions, we will provide a safety briefing, in which we lay down some general rules to keep the group safe, how to use the gear, and how to keep warm. Then we will pass out gear and make sure everyone is fitted appropriately. We will also load your personal gear onto sleds to take to the yurt.
- Next, we will teach specific cross country skiing or snowshoeing techniques, depending on which activity your group has requested. We will practice a skills progression, using games and drills. We will make sure everyone is comfortable on their skis or snowshoes before we get started.
- Once on the trail, your group will continue to improve their skills, building on some of the basics we covered and challenging themselves with different activities, games, and terrain.
- After a few hours, we will get to camp. We'll warm up in the yurt and get settled.
- For those needing a bit more adventure and activity, we'll head back out for some more exploring in the afternoon.
- In the evening, we'll make dinner, play games, and recount our favorite moments of the day.
- The next morning, after breakfast, we'll pack up and make our way back to the vehicles.
- If your group is doing a two-night adventure, then there will be another day of fun-filled adventure before packing up.
- At the end of the trip, we will gather once again for a closing circle, during which we'll share highlights and lessons learned from the trip.

*\*This is a sample itinerary. Your trip may vary per your goals and requests.*



# PACKING LIST

## WHAT SPLORE PROVIDES

Splore will provide snowshoes or cross country ski gear, as well as all the meals, beverages and snacks. We require everyone to use Splore's ski and snowshoe equipment—please do not bring your own.

## DRESSING FOR WINTER WEATHER

In order to be prepared for any weather, it is important to dress in loose fitting clothing which can be layered. Wearing long sleeves and long pants is a good way to protect your skin from cold and wind. If possible, avoid anything cotton (e.g., jeans, hoodies, etc.), as it is a poor insulator when wet. Additionally, snowstorms can happen unexpectedly in the winter so it is important to bring along a waterproof jacket & pants and an additional warmer layer with you.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

- Waterproof long pants
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm top and bottom layer
- Non-cotton T-shirts (2)
- Gloves or mittens
- Warm hat
- Waterproof boots
- Warm socks (2-3 pair)
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen & sunglasses
- Warm sleeping bag & travel pillow
- Slippers for inside the yurt
- Toiletries & personal medications

## NOT INCLUDED

- Lodging before and after the trip
- The cost of emergency evacuation and medical care beyond first-aid
- Gratuity for guides

## WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Weapons
- Illegal drugs
- Pets

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES POLICY

Alcoholic beverages are allowed on most overnight/multi-day trips for consumption at camp, at the end of the day, and not in excess. Participants acting as caregivers/chaperones are asked to only drink moderately. Splore does not provide alcoholic beverages; you must bring your own. If you have questions, please call our office.



# WHAT TO EXPECT AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE TRIP

If you have any other questions that are not addressed in this section or the FAQ section, please call (801) 484-4128 or email [info@splore.org](mailto:info@splore.org).

## AFTER BOOKING

After you have paid your deposit, we will send you a link to fill out your paperwork electronically. If you're unable to fill out the forms electronically, please contact our office for other arrangements. Paperwork must be completed for everyone on the trip.

## TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE TRIP

If your numbers have changed, please contact our office at least two weeks prior to your trip so you are not charged for extra people, or if you want to add people, to ensure that we can accommodate additional people on your trip.

If you, or a member of your group, has experienced a change in health or experienced a recent injury, please contact the Splore office so we can make necessary accommodations.

## THE DAY OF

You will meet Splore staff at the designated time and location on your trip confirmation. Have fun!

## AFTER THE TRIP

Within a week after your trip, a Splore staff member will be checking in with you to see how your trip went and if there is anything we can improve upon for next year. These surveys assist us in improving our programming, and in getting grants that provide scholarship funds. We appreciate your participation.

# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

## EMERGENCIES

Our guides are capable of handling emergencies as they arise (although they are generally few and far between). Trip leaders and guides are certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR. Our emergency equipment includes wilderness oriented first-aid-kits and satellite communications systems. We are able to call for medical assistance or evacuation if necessary. If an evacuation is necessary, you will be evacuated to the nearest medical center. The cost associated with evacuation and subsequent medical treatment is the financial responsibility of the ill or injured person.

## CLIMATE

Winter conditions can be extreme. Be prepared for snow, icy roads and trails, and possible road closures.

You can visit [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) for up-to-date weather information.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** How young can you be to go on a Splore trip?

**A:** Splore requires participants to be at least 5 years old and, for river trips, weigh at least 50 pounds in order to fit into a youth PFD (life jacket).

**Q:** What is the minimum number of people that can go on a trip?

**A:** There is no minimum, however the more people you bring on a trip, the cheaper the price per person. Please refer to our Dates & Rates page on our website [www.splore.org](http://www.splore.org).

**Q:** Do I need to bring my own food?

**A:** Our Salt Lake City day trips do not provide meals. All overnight trips include meals, as well as Moab day trips.

**Q:** Do you provide transportation?

**A:** If you need transportation, please call the Splore office at (801) 484-4128. We charge \$250 for round trip transportation in the Salt Lake City area. Moab area rates vary.

**Q:** I have a disability that limits my ability to take care of my own personal needs. Will Splore guides be able to assist me?

**A:** Splore guides are trained in transfers and assisting participants in getting around camp, they are not trained personal care attendants. If you need assistance with any of the following: toileting, eating, taking medication, dressing, and getting in/out of bed, then you will need to bring a personal care attendant with you. There is no additional cost for one attendant to accompany you.

**Q:** What if I can't afford the full cost of the trip?

**A:** Splore staff work tirelessly to get grants to underwrite the cost of our trips for low-income individuals and families. If you need a scholarship, please contact the office or visit the scholarship page on our website. Please keep in mind that everyone must contribute at least 10% of their trip cost.

**Q:** Is there anyone you won't take on a trip?

**A:** It is Splore's mission to get everyone outside to experience amazing adventures, however, we do have some criteria that participants need to meet to be able to go on trips with us. See page 9 for Essential Eligibility Criteria.



# ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to participate on a Splore trip, each individual must meet the following essential eligibility criteria. Participants must:

1. Be 18 years or older, or be accompanied by an adult;
2. Be able to manage all personal care and mobility independently or with the assistance of a companion (friend or family member);
3. Be able to breathe independently, not require medical devices to sustain breathing;
4. Be able to effectively signal or notify guides or other trip participants of personal distress, injury or need for assistance;
5. If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage by medicating independently or with the assistance of a companion;
6. Be able to travel in a physically demanding, remote backcountry environment for the uninterrupted period of the trip length, which can range from one to six days. Trip conditions may vary from cold (below 32 degrees F) to hot (above 90 degrees F) depending on trip location and season and may include, but are not limited to, rain, snow, hail, uninterrupted sun, wind. The remoteness is such that it may require at minimum an hour, but perhaps in excess of 2 days travel, to reach the nearest road and advanced medical care;
7. Be able to move about the campsite independently or with the assistance of a companion, on trips that include overnight camping;
8. Be able to remain adequately hydrated, fed, and properly dressed so as to remain generally healthy and be able to avoid environmental injuries such as hypothermia, heat-related illness, sunburn and frostbite; and
9. Be able to wear all safety equipment correctly such as, but not limited to, helmet, harness, or personal flotation device.
10. Move on skis over flat to steep snow-covered terrain independently or with the assistance of a companion as required by the trip being participated in;
11. Walk one to two miles on trail independently or with the assistance of a companion or with adaptive equipment.



# DIRECTIONS TO ADVENTURE LOCATIONS

The following directions are from Salt Lake City.

If you get lost, you can call the Splore Office at 801-484-4128. If the office is closed, please leave a voicemail at extension 504 – the guides will periodically check it for messages and will get back in touch with you.

## THE UINTAS – CAMP OAKLEY

1. Take I-80 East to Exit 146 US-40 towards Heber/Vernal.
2. Take US-40 to Exit 4 towards Park City/Kamas.
3. Turn left onto UT-248 East.
4. After 1.8 miles, turn left onto Brown's Canyon Rd.
5. After 6.9 miles, turn right onto UT-32 South.
6. After 3.7 miles, turn left on Weber Canyon Road.
7. Follow for 5.3 miles. You will see a white fence on the right side of the road. Turn in at the first right. The parking lot will be immediately to the left.





# OTHER MEETING LOCATIONS

The following are used if Splore is providing transportation:

## REI IN MILLCREEK

1. Take I-80 East and merge onto I-215 South.
2. Take Exit 3, 3300 South.
3. Turn right off the exit ramp and head west on 3300 South.
4. Go past the first traffic light.
5. At the second traffic light turn right.
6. Turn right into the parking lot and head towards the REI.
7. Splore will be waiting behind the car wash.

## 3900 PARK & RIDE

1. Take I-80 East and Merge onto I-215 South.
2. Take Exit 3, 3300 South.
3. Turn left off the exit ramp and cross over the interstate.
4. Turn left onto Wasatch Blvd.
5. Follow the road past one traffic light.
6. Turn right into the Park & Ride located across from Wells Fargo.
7. Splore will meet you there.

## 6200 PARK & RIDE

1. Take I-80 East and merge onto I-215 South.
2. Take Exit 6, 6200 South.
3. Turn left onto 6200 South.
4. Follow up the hill and at the traffic light at the Wasatch Blvd intersection turn left.
5. Follow till the entrance to the Park & Ride.
6. Splore will meet you at the south end of the Park & Ride.



774 East 3300 South Suite 105  
Salt Lake City, UT 84106  
(801) 484-4128



**FIND US ON:**

-  [facebook.com/gosplore](https://facebook.com/gosplore)
-  [twitter.com/sploreutah](https://twitter.com/sploreutah)
-  [instagram.com/sploreutah](https://instagram.com/sploreutah)